of interest would be invited by RITES on behalf of the FCI after which ICB from shortlisted parties shall be invited.

(b) The FCI, has identified following ten locations with a total capacity of 21 lakh tonnes for the creation of bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Place	Capacity
1.	Procuring State Punjab	i. Nabha	3 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Barnala	do
		iii. Moga	do
2.	Haryana	i. Sirsa	3 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Kaithal	do
3.	Consuming StatesWest Bengal	i. Hooghly	1 Lakh Tonnes
4.	Tamil Nadu	i. Chennai	1 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Coimbatore	do
5.	Karnataka	i. Bangalore	1 Lakh Tonnes
6.	Maharashtra	i. Navi Mumbai	2 Lakh Tonnes
	TOTAL:		21 Lakh Tonnes

In addition, it has been decided to create facilities for 1 lakh MTs at the port towns of Pipavav (Gujarat) through the Central Warehousing Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Difficulty faced by Flour Mills in wheat procurement

488. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flour mills in the North are facing difficulty in procurement of wheat at affordable price and if so, whether 70 out of 120 flour mills have been closed down;

(b) whether the facility of FCI's Open Market Sales Scheme is also extended to the flour mills; and

(c) whether there are allegations that the price structure evolved by the FCI for its Open Market Sales Scheme (for wheat) is highly discriminatory for Northern States as the prices under OMSS Rs. 650/for North Rs. 743/for South, Rs. 724/for West and Rs.736/for East (all per quintal) are unworkable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. Open sale of wheat was suspended during the months of April and May, 2001 in the North Zone (except the States of J&K and Himachal Pradesh) with a view to enable the Roller Flour Mills and other bulk buyers of the North Zone to purchase wheat directly from farmers during the procurement season and to lessen the burden on the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to that extent. The open sale was resumed in the month of June, 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As authorised by the Government, the open sale rates of wheat are fixed by the High Level Committee of the FCI on monthly basis after reviewing the lifting position. These rates are being fixed zone-wise after taking into account the zonal economic cost of wheat as maintained by FCI and other relevant factors like carrying costs, tax components, transportation charges. The price structure evolved by FCI is based on the above rationale and is not discriminatory. For the month of July, 2001, these rates have been notified as under:

Zone	Rate per qtl.
North	Rs. 650/-
South	Rs. 720/-
West	Rs. 695/-
East/North East	Rs. 705/-

Shifting of responsibility of Foodgrains Procurement and Distribution

489. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious differences between the Centre and the States came to